

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /056 W
-----119446 281112Z /11

R 280810Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4337
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USINT HAVANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 2888

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CUL, PINT, SW, CU
SUBJ: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA

REF: STATE 84164

1. SWEDEN IS FIELDING TO HAVANA THE LARGEST SWEDISH DELEGATION EVER TO ATTEND AN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL. SOME 120 SWEDISH DELEGATES RUNNING THE GAMUT FROM SWEDISH BAPTIST YOUTH TO TEMPERANCE LEAGUE YOUTH, TO POLITICAL PARTY YOUTH OF ALL PERSUASIONS (MODERATE TO COMMUNIST AND ALL IN BETWEEN) WILL BE PRESENT. OF THE 120, 80 REPRESENT ESTABLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE BANNER OF SUL (SWEDISH YOUTH LEAGUE); 40 OTHERS, OF A MORE LESTEST ORIENTATION, (8.E., SWEDISH-CUBA COMMITTEE, SWEDISH-CHILE COMMITTEE) EMERGE FROM THE RANKS OF AN AD HOC SWEDISH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE. THE TWO FACTIONS HAVE CAUCUSED IN STOCKHOLM PRIOR TO DEPARTURE IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A UNITEDNSWEDISH VIEW ON PLATFORM ISSUES. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED FROM A GROUP REPRESENTING 28 ORGANIZATIONS OF SUCH DISPARATE VIEWS, NO CONSENSUS WAS REACHED. EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL BE FREE TO REPRESENT HIS OWN POSITION IN HAVANA.

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2. THE UNUSUALLY LARGE SWEDISH DELEGATION TO HAVANA HAS GENERATED PRESS ATTENTION RESULTING IN A SPATE OF ARTICLES DEBATING WHETHER SWEDISH YOUTH SHOULD ATTEND OR BOYCOTT THE FESTIVAL. A DAGENS NYHETER STORY OPINED THAT WORLD YOUTH FESTIVALS BELONG TO THE COLD WAR ERA. "BY PLACING A FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE THRID WORD--IN REVOLUTIONARY CUBA--THEY HAVE TRIED TO BREATHE

NEW LIFE INTO AN OTHERWISE PETRIFIED INSTITUTION. BUT THE CUBA FESTIVAL SEEMS TO BE COLORED BY BOMBASTIC RHETORIC THAT DERIVES FROM MOSCOW... THE PROBLEM WITH THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IS EVEN DEEPER. ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO, CUBA WAS AN EXCITING EXAMPLE TO ALMOST ALL THE RADICAL LEFT. AT THAT TIME, A FESTIVAL IN CUBA WITH A GENERAL ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC THEME WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS. SINCE THOSE DAYS, ANTI-IMPERIALIST UNITY HAS UNDERGONE DEEP STRAINES...AND CUBA US RIGHT AT THE CENTER OF THIS. WHEN CUBA COOPERATES WITH THE SOVIETS IN ETHIOPIA AND ARRANGES A WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN THE SOVIET TRADITION, IT'S HARDER TO SEE CUBA AS AN INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST EXAMPLE."

3. IN A RETORT TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DAGENS NYHETER STORY, ULF JANSSON OF THE FESTIVAL'S SWEDISH PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WRITES IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "WE ARE NOT MEGAPHONES FOR MOSCOW" (ALSO PRINTED IN DAGENS NYHETER): "CLAIMS THAT THE CUBA FESTIVAL IS COLORED BY BOMBASTIC RHETORIC DERIVING FROM MOSCOW IS TO DESCRIBE SSU, KU, CUF, FPU (ALL POLITICAL PARTY YOUTH WINGS) AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AS MEGAPHONES FOR SOVIET PROPAGANDA WITH NO WILL OF THEIR OWN. THIS IN NOTHING BUT LANGUAGE USED DURING THE COLD WAR AND A MOST OUTRAGEOUS ACCUSATION AGAINST SWEDISH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS."

4. PERHAPS THE MOST DEVASTATING CRITICISM WAS WRITTEN BY CZECH REFUGEE, ZDENEK HEJZLAR, AND PRINTED IN AFTONBLADET ON JULY 24. HEJZLAR WAS HEAD OF CZECK RADIO DURING THE PRAGUE SPRING PERIOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WAS PRESIDENT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL, HELD IN PRAGUE IN 1947. HEJZLAR WRITES: "(THE 1947 PRAGUE FESTIVAL) WAS AN OPEN AND FREE MEETING FOR THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD...AND AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT NEVER TO BE REPEATED. AS THE WORLD YOUTH FEDERATION'S VICE PRESIDENT--THE PRESIDEN WAS ENRICO BERLINGUER, NOW LEADER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, I EXPERIENCED HOW THE TWO FOLLOWING FESTIVALS WERE TOTALLY MISUSED FOR THE SUPER-POWER INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET UNION." AFTER ELABORATING ON THE FATE OF FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS IN POST-DUBCEK CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HEJZLAR COMMENTS: "ACTUALLY I CANNOT REMEMBER A SINGLE COLLABORATOR WHO MANAGED TO POLITICALLY SURVIVE THE PURGES OF THE 50'S AND THE 70'S. TERRIBLE MEMORIES, AREN'T THEY?

"IT IS BEING SAID THAT THE WORLD FESTIVALS EVENTUALLY WERE FREED OF THE BAD TRADITIONS OF FUNCTIONING AS 'MOSCOW MEGAPHONES.' BUT OTHERS CLAIM THAT ONLY THE METHODS HAVE BEEN REFINED.

"THE FESTIVAL IN HAVANA IN THIS CONNECTION OFFERS CONVINCING PROOF OF THIS FACT. IT TAKES PLACE TEN YEARS AFTER THE 'PRAGUE SPRING' WAS CRUSHED BY SOVIET TANKS--CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE FESTIVAL WAS BORN.

"CAN ONE TALK ABOUT ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC SOLIDARITY WITHOUT PRO-
TESTING VIOLENTLY AGAINST THE ATTACK ON CZECHOSLAVAKIA? AND WITH-
OUT ISSUING STATEMENTS ON THE VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE SOVIET DOMINATED EASTERN EUROPE? WILL THE SWEDISH PARTICI-
PANTS BE REMINED OF THE INDIVISIBILITY OF FREEDOM? OR WILL THEY
JUST ADMIRE THE DRESSED UP CUBAN FACADE AND THE SOVIET DANCE TROUPE?"

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /056 W
-----119667 281111Z /10

R 280810Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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5. COMMENT: SWEDISH YOUTH LEADERS EN ROUTE TO CUBA TELL EMBOFS
THAT THEIR MAIN PURPOSES IN ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE ARE TO MAIN-
TAIN CUMMUNICATION WITH THIRD WORLD YOUTH LEADERS AND TO EXPER-
IENCE FOR THEMSELVES THE FLAVOR OF CONTEMPORARY CUBA. THE SWEDES,
FOR THE MOST PART, ARE NOT OUT TO SCORE, OR BE SUBHECTED TO, ANY
PROPAGANDA POINTS. ATTEMPTS BY MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE
SWEDISH DELEGATION TO ORGANIZE FESTIVAL SUPPORT IN THE STOCKHOLM
AREA WERE A FAILURE. A THREE-DAY GALA WITH CELEGTTITIES ATTRACTED
LITTLE ATTENDANCE AND A SCORE OF ERITREAN PICKETS OUTSIDE THE HALL.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH GROUPS, YOUTH FESTIVALS, COMMUNISTS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH02888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0016
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978077/aaaaafx1.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 294d0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 84164
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2038184
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, SW, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/294d0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014